



Additional chart coverage may be found in CATP2, Catalog of Nautical Charts.

SECTOR 11 — CHART INFORMATION

SECTOR 11

MORAY FIRTH—BURGHEAD TO KINNAIRDS HEAD

Plan.—The S shore of Moray Firth, between Burghead and Kinnairds Head, is described in this sector. The descriptive sequence is from W to E.

General Remarks

11.1 From Burghead, the S shore of Moray Firth extends almost due E for 48 miles to Kinnairds Head. The E part of this coast is bold and backed by rising hills. The W part is lower with extensive stretches of sandy beach. Several small bays indent the coast, but are exposed to the N and have no protection against N gales. Several rivers empty into the sea along this section of the coast. There are no large ports, but several fishing and pleasure craft centers are situated in the area.

Southern Trench, a submarine valley, lies with its E end located 14.5 miles NE of Kinnairds Head. It extends about 30 miles in a WSW direction, almost parallel to the S part of the outer section of the firth. This valley has depths of over 100m and can give a good indication of the distance offshore during poor visibility.

Tides—Currents.—The currents off this coast and in the outer part of the firth generally differ greatly from those within the firth.

At a position about 20 miles NNW of Kinnairds Head, the SE current begins 3 hours 15 minutes before HW at Dover and the NW current begins 3 hours after HW at Dover. Both these tidal currents attain rates of 0.5 knot at springs.

At a position about 9 miles E of the above position, the current is rather irregular, but begins to set in a W direction 5 hours after HW at Dover. It begins to set in a general E direction 1 hour 15 minutes before HW at Dover. Both these currents attain rates of 0.5 knot at springs.

At a position about 18 miles W of Kinnairds Head, the current is more or less rotary clockwise. The W current changes direction from about 220° to 300° and begins 4 hours 30 minutes after HW at Dover. The E current changes direction from about 050° to 020° and begins 1 hour before HW at Dover. Both these currents attain rates of 0.8 knot at springs.

At a position 4.5 miles N of Covesea Light, the SW current, which sets in a mean direction of 230°, begins 4 hours before HW at Dover. The NE current, which sets in a mean direction of 055°, begins 2 hours after HW at Dover. Both these currents attain rates of 0.5 knot at springs.

Caution.—Submarines exercise frequently, dived and surfaced, in the areas off this stretch of coast.

Numerous fishing vessels may be encountered in the waters described within this sector.

Moray Firth—South Side

11.2 Burghead (57°42'N., 3°30'W.) was previously described in Sector 10. Between Burghead and Covesea

Skerries, 5 miles ENE, the coast is fronted by shallow water and foul ground extends up to 0.3 mile offshore in places.

Hopeman (57°43'N., 3°26'W.), a small harbor, lies 2 miles ENE of Burghead and dries. It is enclosed by three piers and has an entrance, facing W, only 17.5m wide. This harbor is mostly used by pleasure craft and entry during heavy weather is quite impracticable. A prominent village stands on the ridge above the harbor.

Neal and Jane, a ridge of drying rocks, lies about 0.2 mile offshore, 1.2 miles ENE of Hopeman.

Covesea Skerries Light (57°44'N., 3°20'W.) is shown from a prominent tower, 36m high, standing on a rocky point, 3.5 miles E of Hopeman. The village of Covesea is situated 1 mile WSW of the light.

Between this village and Hopeman, the coast consists of sandstone cliffs, up to 49m high, which are indented by numerous caves. Several stone quarries are situated along the face of the cliff.

A conspicuous white lookout tower, 10m high, stands on the top of the cliffs, 0.5 mile W of the village. Several prominent radio masts, each 24m high, stand close S and SW of this tower.

Covesea Skerries (57°44'N., 3°21'W.), a group of rocks, lies centered about 0.5 mile NNW of the light and is separated from the coast by a narrow channel. The rocks dry 2m and are rather steep-to on their N and W sides.

Halliman Skerries, another group of rocks, lies about 0.8 mile NE of the light and is separated from Covesea Skerries by a narrow and shallow channel. The rocks dry 0.6m and are marked by a beacon. Local fishermen use the passages leading between these dangers.

11.3 Lossiemouth (57°43'N., 3°17'W.) ([World Port Index No. 32300](#)), a small fishing harbor, fronts Stotfield Head, the NE extremity of a promontory. The town of Lossiemouth occupies most of this promontory and two churches, with conspicuous spires, are situated in it.

Tides rise about 4.1m at springs and 3.2m at neaps. The harbor consists of three basins which have been excavated from the solid rock of the promontory. It is protected by breakwaters and has an entrance only 18.5m wide. There is 610m of quayage with depths of 1 to 1.3m alongside. Vessels of up to 56m in length and 3.7m draft can enter at HW.

An outfall pipeline, which is buried for most of its length, extends 1 mile NNE from the vicinity of the harbor and is marked by a lighted buoy. The entrance channel is indicated by a lighted range. Pilotage is not compulsory, but is available and recommended for vessels without local knowledge. Pilots can be contacted by VHF and generally board about 0.5 mile E of the entrance.

Vessels should send an ETA at least 4 hours in advance. It is reported that a considerable scent is experienced in the outer harbor basin during E winds.

Anchorage is available in a depth of 13m, good holding ground, about 0.7 mile NE of the harbor entrance, but about 0.2 mile E of this berth the bottom is rocky and the holding ground is bad.

Spey Bay (57°42'N., 3°02'W.), a shallow and open bight, lies between Stotfield Head and Scarnose, a rocky headland 14 miles E. The River Lossie flows into the NW side of the bay, 0.2 mile S of the harbor at Lossiemouth. Between this river and the mouth of the Spey River, 6.5 miles ESE, the shore of the bay is fringed by a sandy beach and consists of sandhills, 6 to 15m high. Binn Hill, 66m high, rises 2 miles W of the mouth of the Spey River and is prominent. Several fixed red lights are occasionally shown from a firing range area situated near the shore in the vicinity of Binn Hill.

The Spey River, which is only used by boats, is the most rapid flowing river in Scotland and one of the most prolific salmon fisheries. Its mouth silts up and changes with the winter floods. The village of Kingston stands on the W side of the mouth and a prominent bridge spans the river 0.7 mile above it.

Port Gordon, a small drying harbor, lies 2.8 miles ESE of the mouth of the Spey River and is only used by small pleasure craft. Whiteash Hill, 262m high, rises 4 miles S of Port Gordon and a conspicuous radio mast, 99m high, stands on its E slope.

11.4 Buckie (57°41'N., 2°58'W.) ([World Port Index No. 32290](#)), a small port, lies at the E end of Spey Bay. The harbor consists of five basins and is protected by breakwaters. It is mostly used by fishing vessels and coasters.

Tides—Currents.—Tides rise about 4.1m at springs and 3.2m at neaps.

Depths—Limitations.—The approach to the harbor is obstructed by an extensive reef which lies 0.3 mile offshore. This reef is formed by three detached drying areas. West Muck, lying about 0.2 mile NW of the entrance, dries 2.7m and is marked by a lighted beacon; Middle Muck, lying about 0.3 mile N of the entrance, dries 2.7m; and East Muck, lying about 300m NE of the entrance, dries 2.4m. Foul ground extends up to about 300m N from East Muck. Craigan Roan, which dries 2.3m, lies 1 mile ENE of the harbor and is connected to the shore by drying rocks.

The entrance channel is dredged to a least depth of 3.2m, but is subject to silting. The basins have dredged depths of 2.1 to 5.9m alongside. The harbor entrance faces WNW and is 24.5m wide, but the entrance channel, which passes between the head of a pier and the breakwater, narrows to a width of only 18.2m. Vessels of up to 2,000 dwt, 78m in length, and 4.5m draft can be accommodated at HW.

Aspect.—The twin spires of the church standing in the W part of the town are conspicuous. A prominent group of silos is situated 0.5 mile ESE of the entrance. An ice-making plant, with a conspicuous tower, is situated within the harbor.

Pilotage.—Pilotage is not compulsory, but is available and recommended for vessels without local knowledge. Pilots can be contacted by VHF and generally board about 0.5 mile NW of the harbor entrance. Vessels should contact the harbor authorities 1 hour in advance by VHF in order to obtain the latest tide and traffic information.

Caution.—With offshore winds, vessels sometimes experience a considerable surge within the basins.

A spoil ground area, which may best be seen on the chart, lies 1.5 miles NNE of the harbor entrance.

11.5 Craig Head (57°42'N., 2°55'W.), 61m high, is located 1.5 miles NE of Buckie and surmounted by a prominent obelisk. Between this point and Scarnose, 2.5 miles WSW, the coast consists of rugged cliffs and is fronted by numerous detached rocks which extend up to about 0.3 mile offshore.

Findochty, a small harbor, lies within a cove 0.5 mile E of Craig Head. It has an entrance only 20m wide and is used by pleasure craft.

Portknockie, another small harbor, lies 1.5 miles E of Findochty and is enclosed by piers. In recent years, this harbor has silted up considerably and is reported to be only used by pleasure craft. A church, with a prominent belfry, stands in the resort village which is situated on the slope above the harbor.

Scarnose (57°42'N., 2°51'W.), the E entrance point of Spey Bay, is a bold and steep-to headland which is fronted by Bow Fiddle, a high detached rock. Bill of Cullen, 318m high, rises 2.5 miles SSW of the headland and is surmounted by a conspicuous cairn. Little Bin, 243m high, rises 0.5 mile E of this peak, from the same base.

Caution.—A measured distance (1,853.2m), which may best be seen on the local chart, lies close E of Craig Head and is indicated by two pairs of beacons.

11.6 Cullen Bay (57°42'N., 2°49'W.), a shallow bight, lies between Scarnose and Logie Head, 2 miles ESE. Caple Rock, a steep-to pinnacle, lies about 0.8 mile W of Logie Head and has a least depth of 0.2m. The bay has rocky sides, but its head is sandy.

Cullen (57°42'N., 2°49'W.), a small harbor, lies at the SE side of the bay. It consists of two basins and is protected by two piers. This harbor dries in places and is used by pleasure craft and local fishing boats. Although several detached rocks provide shelter, the harbor is subject to silting and the entrance is hazardous during strong winds from between NW and NE.

The town, which is a small resort, stands on rising ground, S and E of the harbor. A railroad viaduct, which resembles an ancient gateway, is situated close W of the town and is prominent. A conspicuous pavilion, with pillars and a dome, stands close W of the viaduct.

Vessels may anchor in depths of 9 to 11m in the outer part of the bay, N of the viaduct.

Logie Head (57°42'N., 2°47'W.) is formed by a sheer cliff, 56m high. Port Long, a cove with a sandy bottom, is entered close W of the point. Knock Hill, 428m high, rises 7 miles S of the point and is prominent.

Crathie Point is located 1 mile ESE of Logie Head and the ruins of a castle stand on the edge of the cliffs, 0.5 mile W of it.

11.7 Sandend Bay (57°41'N., 2°44'W.) lies between Crathie Point and Redhythe Point, 1 mile E. It is free of dangers, but is mostly shallow. A small boat harbor fronts a village which stands on the W side of this bay.

Redhythe Point (57°42'N., 2°43'W.) is rugged and steep-to except on its W side where it is fringed by rocks. Durn Hill, round-topped and 196m high, stands 2 miles S of the point.

Portsoy (57°41'N., 2°41'W.), a small harbor, lies at the head of a cove which is entered between Redhythe Point and East

Head, 1.7 miles E. The harbor consists of two drying basins and is used by pleasure craft and local fishing boats. A rock, with a least depth of 0.7m, obstructs the approach, but does not constitute a danger at HW.

Strathmarchin Bay lies between East Head and Cowhythe Head, 0.8 mile ESE. Cowhythe Hill, 76m high, rises steeply at the head of this bay and is prominent. Several conspicuous lime kilns are situated in the vicinity of Cowhythe Head, which is composed of crystallized limestone, and a ruined castle stands 0.5 mile S of them.

Knock Head (57°41'N., 2°35'W.), a wedge-shaped point, is located 2.5 miles E of Cowhythe Head. Whitestones, a detached reef, lies 0.2 mile N of the point and just dries. A boat passage leads between this reef and the rocks which front the point. Whitehills, a small fishing boat harbor, lies on the W side of the point and is protected by piers.

11.8 Banff Bay (57°40'N., 2°31'W.) is entered 2 miles ESE of Knock Head. Its entrance is 0.8 mile wide and opens to the N. Collie Rocks, a group of detached drying rocks, lies about 0.2 mile N of the E entrance point. This group of rocks is separated from the mainland by a narrow channel which can be used by boats with local knowledge. Hill of Alvah, 217m high, rises 2.5 miles SSW of the head of the bay and is surmounted by a prominent radio mast. The River Deveron flows into the head of the bay, which dries, and brings down large quantities of silt. It is spanned by a prominent arched road bridge, close within the mouth. Anchorage can be taken in a depth of 12m off the entrance to the bay.

Macduff (57°40'N., 2°30'W.), a small harbor, lies at the E side of Banff Bay and consists of three basins. It is protected by a pier and has an entrance only 12.5m wide. There is 494m of quayside with depths of 6.1 to 6.4m alongside at springs and 4.9 to 5.2m at neaps. The harbor is used by fishing vessels and coasters. Vessels of up to 61m in length, 11.3m beam, and 4m draft can be accommodated.

A light is shown from a prominent tower, 11m high, standing on the head of the pier, at the NE side of the entrance. The entrance fairway is indicated by a lighted range. A conspicuous war memorial tower, 24m high, stands in the middle of the town, 0.2 mile SSE of the light. A prominent church, with a domed tower, is situated 0.2 mile SSW of the light. Duff House, a large and prominent building, stands 0.8 mile SW of the church.

Pilotage is not compulsory, but is available and recommended for vessels without local knowledge. Vessels should contact the harbor by VHF at least 1 hour in advance. Pilots can be contacted by VHF and usually board about 0.5 mile NW of the entrance.

Gamrie Bay (57°41'N., 2°20'W.), lying 5 miles E of Banff Bay, is entered between More Head and Grovie Head, 1.3 miles NE. More Head, formed by a dark cliff, is 140m high and is fronted by drying rocks which extend up to about 300m offshore. The shores of the bay are also encumbered by numerous detached rocks, some of which dry.

The village of Gardenstown stands at the foot of a steep slope at the head of the bay. It is fronted by a small harbor which is enclosed by piers. This harbor is partially protected by Craig Dagerty, a ridge of rock, which is 7m high and lies close NW of the entrance. The harbor dries and is used by pleasure craft and local fishing boats.

11.9 Troup Head (57°42'N., 2°17'W.), located 1 mile NE of Grovie Head, is the E extremity of a line of cliffs. This prominent headland is 110m high and conspicuous from seaward. A house stands among the trees, 1 mile S of the point. It is situated on high ground and is prominent from the N and E.

During offshore winds, violent gusts sweep down off the near perpendicular cliffs in this vicinity.

Pennan Bay is entered 1.4 miles SE of Troup Head and a village is situated on its S side at the bottom of the steep cliffs. This village is fronted by two small piers which are used by local fishing boats. The approach to the bay is encumbered by several rocks and entry should not be attempted without local knowledge.

Windyheads Hill, 230m high, rises 3.2 miles SE of Troup Head and its summit is surmounted by several radio masts.

Strahangles Point is located 1 mile ESE of Pennan Bay. The coast between consists of purple cliffs, up to 120m high, and is fronted in places by rocky drying ledges.

Aberdour Bay (57°40'N., 2°11'W.) lies between Strahangles Point and Quarry Head, 1.7 miles E. A deep ravine, located at the head of this bay, divides the cliffs and forms a distinct notch in the outline of the land. In the vicinity of the ruins of Dundarg Castle, which are situated 1 mile SW of Quarry Head, the nature of the cliffs changes from red sandstone to blue mica slate and they gradually decrease in height toward the E.

11.10 Rosehearty (57°42'N., 2°07'W.), a village, stands on a prominent headland, 1.7 miles NE of Quarry Head. This village is fronted by a small harbor which is protected by a pier and only used by pleasure craft. A wide space among the rocks, which is protected by a pier, lies close SE of the harbor. This space, which is known as Port Rae, dries and is used as a shelter for local fishing boats. The approaches are encumbered by rocks and both places should not be entered without local knowledge.

A prominent radio mast, 61m high, and a tower stand 0.5 mile S of Rosehearty.

Sandhaven, a small drying harbor, lies 1.7 miles E of Rosehearty and is used by pleasure craft. A conspicuous chimney stands 1 mile E of this harbor and 0.8 mile W of Kinnairds Head.

Kinnairds Head (57°42'N., 2°00'W.), the SE entrance point of Moray Firth, is fully described in Sector 12.

Caution.—A firing and bombing exercise range lies in the vicinity of Rosehearty. Bombing targets are moored up to about 2 miles W and N of the village. These targets are frequently damaged and may be unlit, off station, or partially submerged.